

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for facilitating electronic monetary transactions, the system comprising:

(a) an automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine being constructed and designed for:

- (i) debiting an account of a user and/or accepting from the user an amount of currency;
- (ii) issuing or receiving from a server a credit code being associated with said amount of currency and informing the user of said credit code; and
- (iii) updating said server with said amount of currency and, if required, with said credit code being associated therewith, thereby establishing a virtual user account at said server; and

(b) said server, being capable of communication with said automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine and being constructed and designed for:

- (i) receiving data from said automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine of said amount of currency and, if required, said credit code being associated therewith;
- (ii) receiving or issuing an identification code and associating said identification code with said credit code, thereby activating said virtual user account; and

- (iii) debiting said virtual user account by a specified sum of currency upon request when presented with said credit code, identification code and said specified sum.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said account of said user is selected from the group consisting of a bank account, a debit card account, a credit card account and a second virtual user account, whereas said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine is further constructed and designed for communicating with a server of a bank or credit or debit provider.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said identification code and said credit code are each independently a string of alphanumeric characters.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said credit code is issued in a form selected from the group consisting of a string of alphanumeric characters displayed upon a visual display, a string of alphanumeric characters delivered audibly from a speaker and a string of alphanumeric characters printed upon a tangible media.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein said identification code associated with said credit code is generated by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a user choice of said identification code communicated to said server by means of an input device of said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine;

- (ii) a user choice of said identification code communicated to said server by means of an input device of a user client at a discretion of said user;
- (iii) an assignment by said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine of said identification code, once assigned said identification code being subsequently communicated to said server and provided to said user; and
- (iv) an assignment by said server of said identification code, once assigned said identification code being subsequently provided to said user.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 where said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine includes at least one item selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a monitor for visual display of data;
- (ii) a printer for printing data on a tangible media;
- (iii) a data input device;
- (iv) a mechanism for accepting, identifying and counting currency of at least one types;
- (v) at least one audio speaker for delivery of audio data;
- (vi) at least one mechanism for reading information encoded on a magnetic stripe;
- (vii) a bar code reader; and
- (viii) a dispenser of pre-printed items.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of facilitating electronic monetary transactions, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine for:
 - (i) debiting an account of a user and/or accepting from the user an amount of currency;
 - (ii) issuing or receiving from a server a credit code being associated with said amount of currency and informing the user of said credit code; and
 - (iii) updating said server with said credit code and said amount of currency being associated therewith, thereby establishing a virtual user account; and
- (b) providing said server, capable of communication with said automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine, said server being for:
 - (i) receiving from said automatic ~~teller~~transaction machine said credit code and said amount of currency being associated therewith;
 - (ii) receiving or issuing a personalized identification code and associating said identification code with said credit code, thereby activating said virtual user account; and
 - (iii) debiting said virtual user account by a specified sum of currency upon request when presented with said credit code, identification code and said specified sum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said debiting of an account debits an account selected from the group consisting of a bank account, a debit card account, a credit card account and a second virtual user account.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein presentation of said specified sum, credit code and identification code to said server is performed by said user via a user client.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein presentation of said specified sum, credit code and identification code to said server is performed by a vendor with the agreement of said user.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said identification code and said credit code are each individually alphanumeric character strings.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said credit code is issued by performing an action selected from the group consisting of displaying an alphanumeric character string upon a visual display, delivering an alphanumeric character string audibly from a speaker, printing an alphanumeric character string upon a tangible media.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein generation of said identification code associated with said credit code in said user account is accomplished by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) said user choosing said identification code and communicating said chosen identification code to said server by means of an input device of said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine;

- (ii) said user choosing said identification code and communicating said chosen identification code to said server by means of an input device of a user client;
- (iii) said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine assigning said identification code, said assigned identification code being subsequently communicated to both said server and said user; and
- (iv) said server assigning said identification code, said assigned identification code being subsequently communicated to said user.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, where said automatic ~~teller~~ transaction machine is capable of at least one action selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) displaying visual data on a monitor;
- (ii) printing data on a tangible media;
- (iii) receiving a data input from a data input device;
- (iv) accepting, identifying and counting currency of at least one type;
- (v) delivering audio data from at least one audio speaker;
- (vi) reading information encoded on a magnetic stripe;
- (vii) reading a bar code; and
- (viii) dispensing pre-printed items.

17. (Original) A system for facilitating electronic monetary transactions, the system comprising:

(a) an automatic point of sell machine being constructed and designed for:

- (i) debiting an account of a user and/or accepting from the user an amount of currency;
- (ii) issuing or receiving from a server a credit code being associated with said amount of currency and informing the user of said credit code; and
- (iii) updating said server with said amount of currency and, if required, with said credit code being associated therewith, thereby establishing a virtual user account at said server; and

(b) said server, being capable of communication with said automatic point of sell machine and being constructed and designed for:

- (i) receiving data from said automatic point of sell machine of said amount of currency and, if required, said credit code being associated therewith;
- (ii) receiving or issuing an identification code and associating said identification code with said credit code, thereby activating said virtual user account; and
- (iii) debiting said virtual user account by a specified sum of currency upon request when presented with said credit code, identification code and said specified sum.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said account of said user is selected from the group consisting of a bank account, a debit card account, a credit card account and a second virtual user account, whereas said automatic point of sell machine is further constructed and designed for communicating with a server of a bank or credit or debit provider.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said identification code and said credit code are each independently a string of alphanumeric characters.

22. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said credit code is issued in a form selected from the group consisting of a string of alphanumeric characters displayed upon a visual display, a string of alphanumeric characters delivered audibly from a speaker and a string of alphanumeric characters printed upon a tangible media.

23. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein said identification code associated with said credit code is generated by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a user choice of said identification code communicated to said server by means of an input device of said automatic point of sell machine;
- (ii) a user choice of said identification code communicated to said server by means of an input device of a user client at a discretion of said user;

- (iii) an assignment by said automatic point of sell machine of said identification code, once assigned said identification code being subsequently communicated to said server and provided to said user; and
- (iv) an assignment by said server of said identification code, once assigned said identification code being subsequently provided to said user.

24. (Original) The system of claim 17, where said automatic point of sell machine includes at least one item selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) a monitor for visual display of data;
- (ii) a printer for printing data on a tangible media;
- (iii) a data input device;
- (iv) a mechanism for accepting, identifying and counting currency of at least one types;
- (v) at least one audio speaker for delivery of audio data;
- (vi) at least one mechanism for reading information encoded on a magnetic stripe;
- (vii) a bar code reader; and
- (viii) a dispenser of pre-printed items.

25. (Original) A method of facilitating electronic monetary transactions, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an automatic point of sell machine for:

- (i) debiting an account of a user and/or accepting from the user an amount of currency;
 - (ii) issuing or receiving from a server a credit code being associated with said amount of currency and informing the user of said credit code; and
 - (iii) updating said server with said credit code and said amount of currency being associated therewith, thereby establishing a virtual user account; and
- (b) providing said server, capable of communication with said automatic point of sell machine, said server being for:
- (i) receiving from said automatic point of sell machine said credit code and said amount of currency being associated therewith;
 - (ii) receiving or issuing a personalized identification code and associating said identification code with said credit code, thereby activating said virtual user account; and
 - (iii) debiting said virtual user account by a specified sum of currency upon request when presented with said credit code, identification code and said specified sum.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said debiting of an account debits an account selected from the group consisting of a bank account, a debit card account, a credit card account and a second virtual user account.

27. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein presentation of said specified sum, credit code and identification code to said server is performed by said user via a user client.

28. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein presentation of said specified sum, credit code and identification code to said server is performed by a vendor with the agreement of said user.

29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said identification code and said credit code are each individually alphanumeric character strings.

30. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein said credit code is issued by performing an action selected from the group consisting of displaying an alphanumeric character string upon a visual display, delivering an alphanumeric character string audibly from a speaker, printing an alphanumeric character string upon a tangible media.

31. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein generation of said identification code associated with said credit code in said user account is accomplished by a means selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) said user choosing said identification code and communicating said chosen identification code to said server by means of an input device of said automatic point of sell machine;
- (ii) said user choosing said identification code and communicating said chosen identification code to said server by means of an input device of a user client;

- (iii) said automatic point of sell machine assigning said identification code, said assigned identification code being subsequently communicated to both said server and said user; and
- (iv) said server assigning said identification code, said assigned identification code being subsequently communicated to said user.

32. (Original) The method of claim 25, where said automatic point of sell machine is capable of at least one action selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) displaying visual data on a monitor;
- (ii) printing data on a tangible media;
- (iii) receiving a data input from a data input device;
- (iv) accepting, identifying and counting currency of at least one type;
- (v) delivering audio data from at least one audio speaker;
- (vi) reading information encoded on a magnetic stripe;
- (vii) reading a bar code; and
- (viii) dispensing pre-printed items.

33. (New) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said automatic transaction machine is an automatic teller machine.

34. (New) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said automatic transaction machine is an automatic teller machine.

35. (New - Withdrawn) The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said automatic transaction machine is an automatic point of sale machine.

36. (New - Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 9, wherein said automatic transaction machine is an automatic point of sale machine.